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5 November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

November Newsletter

Welcome to our November Newsletter! We have several items of information to share with you.

Parking Pledge

To date over 230 families have signed up to our Parking Pledge. Many thanks to each and every one for your support. We are now distributing our Parking Pledge stickers for you to put on your cars. We will be sending out a new Parking Pledge to those who have not replied in case the first letter was mislaid.

We really want everyone to sign up to the Pledge. By signing up you are committing to not dropping off or picking up in Otago Street and Westbank Quadrant and by doing so you are helping to make the area immediately outside our Otago Street gate safer for all of our children. Please sign up!

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have arranged for the Council's Road Safety Team to come and talk to all of our pupils at our Assemblies on 23 November. It would be very good if we were able to report at these assemblies there has been a further decrease in the number of parents dropping off/picking up on Otago Street/Westbank Quadrant. Make it happen!

SSE Scottish Women's Cup

Last Tuesday morning we held a short assembly for our P5-P7 children. One of our pupils, Ella Sharp, had entered her drawing for the new Scottish Women's (Football) cup and her design was judged to be the best! The Scottish Women's Cup Final took place on Sunday at Firhill and the new trophy, designed by Ella, was awarded to the winners. The captains of both teams and their managers (Hibs and Motherwell) came along to unveil the new trophy and to acknowledge Ella's success.

At the assembly we had a very informative question and answer session with many from the media present. Everyone was highly impressed with our children's questions and with Ella's fabulous design (visit www.scotwomensfootball.com to see her stunning design). We are also delighted to announce that Ella's success has also resulted in the school receiving £1000 worth of sports equipment from the sponsors of the Scottish Women's Cup (SSE – Thank you!) Very well done Ella!

Forthcoming Dates

Diwali will be celebrated from Wednesday 7 November. We would like to wish all of our families who celebrate Diwali a very Happy Diwali.

Prospective P1 parents are invited to a tour of the school on Thursday 8 November at 9:30am or Monday 19 November at 1:45pm. Please let anyone know who may be interested. Online enrolment of Primary one children takes place from today.

Parent Council International Evening Thursday 6 December - Separate details will follow.

The Infant show (P1, P2 & P3) will be performed on Tuesday 11 December for P3 parents, Wednesday 12 December for the P2 parents and Thursday 13 December for P1 parents. All performances start at 10:30am and the performance will last around 45 minutes. Information regarding tickets will be available soon.

School closes on Thursday 20 December at 2:30pm and we will return after the holiday on Monday 7 January 2019 at 9am.

Group Call

We have had an excellent response from you with regards to updating email addresses. This means we will be able to move from sending text messages (which unbelievably are costly and limited) to sending emails (which are free; allow a lot more information to be shared and which can be sent to both parents in a family). We hope to move over to this way of communicating on 1 December. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Hallowe'en Disco

A big thank you to the Parent Council for organising the P6 and P7 Hallowe'en Disco on Tuesday and to all of the staff who supported this event. The children had a spooktacular time!

Book Fair

£2000 worth of books sold, with £1200 worth of new books coming to our school library very soon! The Pupil Council have chosen some personal favourites to be included. Well done everyone but a special thanks to Mr Thomson.

Social Action Initiatives

1. Rice Challenge

P7 have chosen to support the "90Kg Rice Challenge" as a Social Enterprise project. This amount of rice sold would enable a Malawian Farmer to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child. We hope to sell 360 Kg of rice which would be enough to send four children to Secondary School in Malawi for one year. A separate letter has been sent home with more details.

2. Reverse Advent Calendar

Last year we launched our reverse advent calendar and it proved to be a huge success resulting in us collecting 48 boxes of food, toys and toiletries, which were distributed to three local charities. We plan to have another reverse calendar this term. More details will follow but in brief every child is given a number and when his/her number coincides with the date of the month in December he/she brings in a contribution which goes into a class hamper.

By the time we get to the holidays every child in the school (and staff too) will have contributed a gift that will go to a family in need.

3. Pupil Led Bake Sale

A group of P7 children will be running their own charity bake sale on Friday 30 November. The children have selected three charities, one local, one national and one international. One charity relates to Social Action, another to Environment and the third is about directly helping people in our community. The children will be asking for donations of home baking from P5-P7 children in the coming weeks. The bake sale will be open to P1-P7. More details to follow.

4. Foodbank Collection

Our first foodbank collection this year will support a local community-led charity – Refuweege. Refuweege strive to ensure that people who have been forced to flee their homes arrive in Scotland to a warm welcome. We are asking for donations of toiletries – shampoo, shower gel, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary and shaving items. Food items are also accepted; those with a Scottish theme are encouraged!

Winter Weather

Our procedures for winter weather are as follows if there is ice or heavy snow:

- The janitors will grit and attempt to clear a path on the ramp leading down from Kelvinway
- The janitors will grit and attempt to clear a path at the Otago Street entrance
- These two entrances will be our priority due to the number of janitorial staff we have and the time available
- If the school is unable to open we will send a text message to our parents as early as possible. Information will also be available from Glasgow City Council's website and twitter, www.glasgow.gov.uk @GlasgowCC, on Hillhead Primary's twitter, @HillheadPrimary and from local media websites, radio and TV
- If you receive a message the school is closed please do not continue with your journey to school with your child
- **In inclement weather pupils should not be sent to school unaccompanied**
- Please ensure that all children are appropriately dressed for the weather
- If we have to close the school once children have arrived please arrange for your child to be collected as soon as possible
- We have a check out system in place when we have to send children home. Friends and relatives can collect children provided we have your permission
- It is essential that we have current contact details of all our parents
- Please continue to follow media reports when the school is closed. We will endeavour to reopen as soon as possible, once it is safe to do so

Hopefully we will not need to adopt any of these policies.

I think that is all.

Many thanks for your continued support; it is very much appreciated.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Donaghy". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Francis Donaghy
Head Teacher